



California
Environmental
Protection
Agency

Air Resources Board

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Fact Sheet #2

School Advisory for Naturally-Occurring Asbestos

- " **Why is there a concern with the use of ultramafic or serpentine rock material?** Serpentine and its parent material, ultramafic rock, often contains asbestos. Ultramafic rock material has been used in some areas for surfacing unpaved roads, parking lots, playgrounds and other open areas; therefore, some schools and day-care centers may currently have areas surfaced with this material. Children attending such schools or day-care centers may be exposed to asbestos fibers through various school activities.
- " **What has been done to reduce exposure to asbestos from ultramafic rock?** In June 2000, the Air Resources Board (ARB) updated a regulation prohibiting the use of ultramafic rock (including serpentine rock) that contains asbestos for surfacing applications subjected to vehicular, pedestrian, or non-pedestrian use, such as cycling and horse-back riding. A school advisory was also released in 1990 and 1999. A second regulation was adopted in 2001, requiring construction, grading and surface mining activities to control dust emissions when they take place in areas with asbestos containing rocks or soils.
- " **Where is ultramafic and serpentine rock found?** Ultramafic and serpentine rock is found in many parts of California and is especially abundant in the Coastal Ranges, the Klamath Mountains, and Sierra foothills, where it is commonly exposed near faults.
- " **How can you determine if you have ultramafic or serpentine rock?** If there are areas surfaced with crushed rock or gravel, an identification of the material should be made. Serpentine rock is often glassy in texture, and usually ranges in color from pale green to bluish-black, but it is most commonly dark or dull green. Serpentine often contains veins of chrysotile asbestos, which appears from beige to white. Some green-colored rock is greenstone and may be mistaken for serpentine rock. If you are unsure, a registered geologist can identify ultramafic and serpentine rock.
- " **What should you do if school areas are surfaced with ultramafic or serpentine?** If ultramafic or serpentine rock is found on school grounds, it should be tested, using ARB Test Method 435, to determine if there is asbestos present. If asbestos is found, you should consider implementing one of the appropriate mitigation methods listed in Fact Sheets #3. If you need assistance in locating a laboratory to conduct bulk sample analysis, please call the ARB's Monitoring and Laboratory Division at (916) 322-3726.
- " **Whom should you contact if you have any questions?** Questions regarding this advisory should be directed to Mr. Jerry Martin at the ARB Public Information Office at (916) 322-2990. A few of the local air pollution control districts (districts) in the State have adopted more stringent laws concerning asbestos - please contact your local district for further information.